

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

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Boston Scientific Corp. and Target
Therapeutics, Inc.,

NO. C 02-01474 JW

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Plaintiffs,

**SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM
CONSTRUCTION ORDER**

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v.

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Cordis Corp.,

Defendant.

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I. INTRODUCTION

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On December 5, 2006, the Court conducted a hearing in accordance with Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc., 517 U.S. 370 (1996), to construe an additional phrase which is used in Claims 3 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,010,498 patent ("the '498 Patent") and Claims 8 and 33 of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,385 ("the '385 Patent"). This Order sets forth the Court's construction of the phrases at issue.

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II. DISCUSSION

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A. Claim Term in Dispute: "adapted to"

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Claim 3 of the '498 Patent provides:

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The combination of claim 1 wherein said detachable elongate tip portion is a long and substantially pliable segment **adapted to** be multiply folded upon itself to substantially pack said body cavity.

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('498 Patent, Col. 13:15-18.)

1 The parties dispute the proper construction of the phrase "adapted to." Similar use of the
2 phrase "adapted to" appears in Claim 9 of the '498 Patent and Claims 8 and 33 of the '385 Patent.
3 For example, Claim 8 provides:

4 The improvement of claim 7 wherein said elongate distal tip is a long and
5 substantially pliable segment **adapted to** be multiply folded upon itself to
sufficiently occupy said body cavity to impede fluid flow therein.

6 ('385 Patent, Col. 13:40-43.)

7 **B. Principles of Claim Construction**

8 A principle of patent claim construction is that the words of a claim are to be given their
9 ordinary and customary meaning, which is the meaning that the words would have to a person of
10 ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. Phillips v. AWH Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1312-13
11 (Fed. Cir. 2005). A person skilled in the art is deemed to have read the claims and written
12 description and to have knowledge of any special meaning and usage of the words used in the
13 claims. Id. at 1313. Thus, in the claim construction process, the Court should start by reviewing
14 these same resources to derive definitions for the words and phrases in the claims. Id.

15 **C. Proposed Definitions**

16 Both parties contend that the phrase "adapted to" is an ordinary and customary phrase and
17 should be given its ordinary and customary meaning. (See Plaintiffs' Brief Regarding Claim
18 Construction of the "Adapted To" Claim Term, "Pls.' Br.," Docket Item No. 930, at 3; Defendant's
19 Brief in Support of Claim Construction of the Phrase "Adapted To," "Def.'s Br.," Docket Item No.
20 931, at 2.) However, they proffer different meanings for the phrase both based on dictionary
21 definitions.

22 Plaintiffs Boston Scientific Corp. and Target Therapeutics, Inc. contend that "adapted to"
23 should be construed to mean "**configured to**" to convey that the elongate tip portion was designed
24 (i.e., configured) to multiply fold upon itself. (Pls.' Br. at 3.) Defendant Cordis Corp. ("Defendant")
25 contends that the term should be construed to mean "**suitable for**" because that is the plain and
26 ordinary meaning of "adapted to." (Def.'s Br. at 1.)

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1 **D. Construction of Phrase**

2 In accordance with the principles of claim construction articulated in Phillips, the Court turns
3 first to the intrinsic evidence to construe the phrase "adapted to."

4 Claim 7 of the '385 Patent discloses an elongate distal tip "capable of"¹ being multiply folded
5 upon itself:

6 An apparatus for use in occluding a body cavity comprising: . . . a
7 detachable elongate distal coupled to said wire, said elongate distal tip
being a relaxed coil **capable of** being multiply folded upon itself.

8 ('385 Patent, Col. 13:33-39.) Claim 8, which depends from Claim 7, claims an elongate distal tip
9 "adapted to" be multiply folded upon itself:

10 The improvement of claim 7 wherein said elongate distal tip is a long and
11 substantially pliable segment **adapted to** be multiply folded upon itself to
sufficiently occupy said body cavity to impede fluid flow therein.

12 ('385 Patent, Col. 13:40-43.)

13 Under the doctrine of claim differentiation, there is a presumption that when different words
14 or phrases are used in separate claims, they are presumed to have different meanings. See Comark
15 Communications Inc. v. Harris Corp., 156 F.3d 1182, 1187 (Fed. Cir. 1998). There is no dispute
16 between the parties that the phrase "capable of" means "having the ability to." (See Stipulation
17 Regarding the Court's August 21, 2006 Order Re: Claim Construction of the "Multiply Folded"
18 Term, Docket Item No. 928.) An object may be "capable of" multiply folding upon itself, even if it
19 is not intentionally and specifically made in a way that would cause it to multiply fold. Thus,
20 "capable of" is a broader term than "adapted to."

21 The definition asserted by Defendant Cordis, namely "suitable for" is similar to "capable of."
22 That is, a device could be suitable for multiply folding upon itself, without being intentionally and
23 specifically made in a way that would cause it to multiply fold. Moreover, Defendant's proposed
24 definition of "suitable for" does not follow from a plain dictionary definition of the word "adapt."
25 Widely accepted dictionary definitions of "adapt" are "to make fit (as for a specific new use or

27 ¹ The term "capable of" is also used in Claims 15, 32, and 38 of the '385 Patent.
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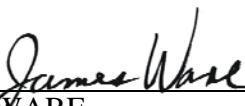
1 situation)," (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 13 (10th ed. 1998)), and "to make suitable to
2 a specific use or situation." American Heritage College Dictionary 15 (3d ed. 1993). No dictionary
3 that Defendant has cited defines "adapt to" to mean "suitable for."

4 On the other hand, Plaintiffs' proposed definition of "configured to" embraces the concept of
5 a device intentionally and specifically made to act in a certain way. A widely accepted dictionary
6 definition of the word "configure" means "[t]o design, arrange, set up, or shape with a view to
7 specific applications or uses." American Heritage Dictionary 386 (4th ed. 2000). The written
8 description of the '498 patent supports the definition of "configured to" because it discloses
9 embodiments in which specific types of materials and wire dimensions are used to make coils that
10 act in certain ways. ('498 Patent, Col. 9:6-13.)

11 **III. CONCLUSION**

12 The Court construes "**adapted to**" to mean "**configured to**."

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14 Dated: December 20, 2006

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16 JAMES WARE
17 United States District Judge

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

1 **THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT COPIES OF THIS ORDER HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO:**

2 Amanda Marie Kessel akessel@goodwinprocter.com
3 Christopher T. Holding cholding@goodwinprocter.com
4 David T. Pritikin dpritikin@sidley.com
5 Edward V. Anderson evanderson@sidley.com
6 Georgia K. Van Zanten gvanzanten@sidley.com
7 Hugh A. Abrams habrabs@sidley.com
8 J. Anthony Downs jdowns@goodwinprocter.com
9 Julie Lynn Fieber jfieber@flk.com
10 Lisa Anne Schneider lschneider@sidley.com
11 Marc A. Cavan mcavan@sidley.com
12 Matthew T. Powers mpowers@sidley.com
13 Michael Francis Kelleher mkelleher@flk.com
14 Patrick E. Premo ppremo@fenwick.com
15 Patrick S. Thompson pthompson@goodwinprocter.com
16 Paul F. Ware pware@goodwinprocter.com
17 Roland Schwillinski rschwillinski@goodwinprocter.com
18 Stephanie Pauline Koh skoh@sidley.com
19 Susan E. Bower sbower@sidley.com
20 Teague I. Donahey tdonahey@sidley.com
21 Tracy J. Phillips tphillips@sidley.com

13 **Dated: December 20, 2006**

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

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15 By: /s/ JW Chambers
16 Elizabeth Garcia
17 Courtroom Deputy

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